



Renaissance Public School Academy Narrative Progress Reports

We as a staff at Renaissance Public School Academy strive to provide our students with high-quality, personalized instruction in an engaging and safe environment. We pride ourselves on student relationships and being able to use our connection with the students to engage them in the highest levels of growth and learning. To that end, we have been on a journey to improve upon our grading and feedback practices so that we can provide a more personalized learning experience to our students.

We have learned that teachers can improve student learning when they give students constructive comments *only* as a form of feedback. A large study was conducted wherein researchers examined the three types of feedback teachers give:

- Grades alone
- Both grades and comments
- Comments alone

The results of the initial study as well as follow-up studies found that students who showed the most growth were those *who received comments alone*. Even grades paired with comments—which at face value would seem to be the richest form of feedback—was just as ineffective as giving grades alone. When a grade is paired with feedback, most students ignore the feedback and focus only on the grade.

To this end, your child receives written and verbal feedback about what they are doing well and what they can do to improve their understanding of the material throughout the school year.

As we approached report cards this year, we looked for a way to continue this practice as we share your student's progress with you. The result of that is the Narrative Progress Report you have received. Your student's teachers have taken time to write personal, narrative comments to provide a more clear picture of your student's progress and growth.

The column on the left of the progress report lists the foundational skills we strive for each student to achieve during their time with their current grade level team. The teacher's comments will focus on your student's progress in comparison to the foundational skills.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your student's education.

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

As part of the RPSA vision that all of our students will find their passion to live fulfilled lives and make a difference in the world, we teach the 7 Habits of Happy Kids to all of our students. The 7 skills and habits are taught in all of our classrooms K-8. You will hear these skills referenced by your child and their teacher during goal setting, at student-led conferences, and in progress reports. We encourage you to have conversations about these habits at home as well.

Be Proactive

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Begin With the End in Mind

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

Put First Things First

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Think Win-Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

Seek First to be Understood, Then to Understand

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

Synergize

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.

Sharpen the Saw

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.